उत्तरकाशी जिलों में भोटिया; बिजनौर, हरिद्वार, देहरादून, नैनीताल एवं पौढ़ी गढ़वाल जिलों में बुक्सा; देहरादून जिले में जोनसरी, पिथौरागढ़ जिले में राजी; और बहराइच, गोण्डा, खेरी, महाराजगंज तथा नैनीताल जिलों में थारू।

जनजातीय उप-योजना कार्यनीति, विकास के सभी क्षेत्रकों को शामिल करते हुए लखीमपुर-खेरी एकीकृत जनजातीय विकास परियोजना, जनजातीय बाहुल्य गोण्डा क्षेत्र तथा ऐसे क्षेत्रों में जहां राजी तथा बुक्सा आदिवासी जनजातियों के प्राचीन समूह रहते हैं प्रचलन में है। इसके अलावा राज्य के पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में, पांच जनजातीय विकास परियोजनाओं के तहत फैले हुए जनजातीय समूहों के लिए विभिन्न सामाजिक आर्थिक कार्यक्रम शुरू किए जाते हैं। पिथौरागढ़ की राजी आदिवासी जाति के समग्र विकास के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा एक माइक्रो-योजना तैयार की गई है।

Facilities to Female Weavers in Rural Areas

*436. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to provide facilities to female weavers and women engaged in handicrafts and handlooms in rural areas for improvement and development of their skill;

(b) what are the training facilities given to women for promoting the handloom and handicrafts industries; and

(c) what financial assistance was given during the last five years to the rural women engaged with the work of /vyeaving, knitting, tailoring, embroidery, cane and bamboo works, handicrafts and handloom etc. in rural and hilly areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) 23 Weavers Service Centres provide short-term training course of four months duration to weavers who are trained in improved method of weaving, dyeing and designing and for this each weaver is entitled to a stipend of Rs. 250/- per month. The Weavers Service Centres also undertake decentralised training of weavers at the door step of the.weaver for which a sum of Rs. 350/- per month is paid. These training facilities are available to all weavers including women. On the handicrafts side, there are 515 training centres for imparting training in Carpet, Metal-ware, Cane and Bamboo, printing of textiles and misc. crafts. Moreover, there are 35 departmental training centres for cane and Bamboo crafts. This facility is extended to all weavers, including women.

(c) Government of India does not maintain separate statistics of expenditure incurred on training in handloom weaving and handicrafts for women. An estimated sum of Rs. 2712 lakhs has been spent on establishment of Weavers Service Centres which includes the amount spent for training of weavers. An estimated sum of Rs. 4450 lakhs was spent for training in handicrafts.

Discontinuance of Central Aid to Special Category States

*437. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have discontinued giving aid to special category States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has adversely affected the development plan of these States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to resume aid to these States; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (e) Central assistance is made available to meet the development requirements of the Special Category States, as per approved Plan outlay, based on the availability of total funds. About 30 per cent of formula based total funds available for allocation are set aside for the Plan assistance of these States. Since their share in total population of the country is much lower, per capita assistance going to these States is substantially higher than the average of non-Special Category States. In the past, non-plan gap was also covered by Central

assistance upto 1988-89. The Ninth Finance Commission, as per terms of reference, assessed the Plan as well as non-plan revenue deficits of these States and recommended Plan and non-plan revenue deficit grants to these States for 1989-90 and 1990-95. Recommendations of the Commission were as such, accepted by the Central Government. Planning Commission had, therefore, indicated to these States that no additional Central assistance for meeting any gap in their resources on non-plan account would be considered from 1989-90 onwards. These States were advised to,, take necessary steps to explain their resource position i.e. revenue and expenditure to the Finance Commission.

However, keeping in view the increasing non-plan gaps of these States and representations made by them, the matter was reviewed and the National Development Council, in October, 1990, decided that Planning Commission may agree to the utilisation by these States, of not more than 10% of Central assistance, for covering their non-plan gap based on resource assessment' from year to year. Accordingly these States have been given the option of utilising 10% of the Central assistance allocated to them for non-plan gap from 1991-92. The total allocation of Central assistance for these States was increased by over 25 per cent in the Annual Plan 1991-92 over the previous year plan so that their development is not adversely affected.

Further more. National Development Council decided in October, 1990 to appoint a Committee of Experts to suggest Durable Solutions for the Financial Problems of the Special Category States. The Expert Committee has been set up by the Planning Commission and is working presently under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Member, Planning Commission.

Revalidation of Passports

*438. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Statewise number of applications for passports which are pending for more than four weeks;

(b) whether it is a fact that system for old passports which were to be revalidated after five years has been discontinued in favour of new passports every ten years with new police verifications leading to avoidable load; if so, whether this time-tested system will be restored at the earliest; and

(c) whether passport holder's records will be computerised at each office of issue for easy handling?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Prior to 16.8.1990, passports were valid for five years and renewal required no fresh police verifications. With effect from 16.8.90, passports validity is 10 years; further while renewal of 5 year passport does not require fresh police verfication, this is required on expiry of 10 year passport for issue of a fresh one.

(c) There is a proposal to computerise passport holder's records at each Passport Office.

कतिपय सरकारी संगठनों को कपड़े की पूर्ति के लिए एजेन्टों को कमीशन का भुगतान

*439. डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन:
श्री राम जेठमलानी:

क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि नेशनल टैक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन द्वारा संचालित अनेक कपड़ा मिलों ने गत कुछ वर्षों के दौरान रक्षा मंत्रालय और कुछ अन्य सरकारी विभागों को कपड़े की पूर्ति करने के लिए कुछ एजेंट नियुक्त किये थे;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे एजेन्टों की कुल संख्या कितनी है और इन्हें गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान कपड़ा मिलों द्वारा कमीशन के रूप में कुल कितनी राशि का भुगतान किया गया है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि ऐसी प्रथा को समाप्त